Development of Tourism in Assam

733. SHRI URKHAO GWRA BRAHMA : Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any specific plan and policy to develop the tourism in Assam during the Ninth Five Year Plan;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) what kind of coordination the Ministry of Tourism maintains with the Forest Ministry in this regard as Assam has tourist place under forests only?

THE MINISTER OF TOURISM AND CULTURE (SHRI JAGMOHAN): (a) The Department of Tourism, Government of India have provided Central financial assistance to the State Governments/UT Administrations including Assam for identified projects for development of infrastructure and promotion of tourism during the 9th Five Year Plan.

(b) The Department of Tourism, Government of India sanctioned 62 projects for an amount of Rs.18.40 crores and released Rs.6.70 crores for these projects.

(c) Department of Tourism, Government of India coordinates with other Ministries/Departments of Govt. of India whenever Inter-Departmental issues are raised.

Development of Hemkund Sahib, Badrinath

734. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of TOURISM AND CULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Govt. have since decided to develop the Valley of Flowers-Hemkund Sahib-Badrinath belt as an eco-development park;

(b) if so, by when the development is likely to commence;

(c) whether the finances have been arranged from International Agencies for the purpose;

(d) if so, the name of such an agency;

(e) the suggestions made by National Seminar on the International Eco-tourism; and